

THE DUNLIN *CALIDRIS ALPINA* IN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA The confusing situation regarding occurrences of Dunlins *Calidris alpina* in East Africa, clarified by Backhurst *et al.* (1973), prompted us to review records of the species in Ethiopia and Somalia. It now appears that there are three acceptable records, all inland, from Uganda and Kenya (Britton 1980), none from Tanzania, and that it is therefore a rare vagrant to East Africa. It is reported from as far south as South Africa (McLachlan & Liversidge 1980), but Dowsett (1980) is sceptical of all records south of the equator. However, those from Rwenzori and Nakuru, accepted in Britton (1980), are actually just south of the equator.

On the Red Sea coast of Eritrea Dunlins are stated to be regular in small numbers on coastal mudflats in winter (Smith 1957). This is confirmed by Ash from mid winter visits to the Massawa (15°37'N, 39°28'E) and Assab (13°01'N, 42°43'E) areas where the following birds were seen:

Assab area: 25 December 1970 - 1 January 1971. Not very common; maximum 30 in one locality, and small numbers elsewhere. On 24-30 December 1973 there were a scattered few.

Massawa area: 26-28 December 1972. Up to 15 in a day.

However, elsewhere the species is obviously of only very rare occurrence at a few inland sites. In the years 1969-1977, Ash saw Dunlins only four times inland:

Akaki (8°52'N, 38°08'E), 3 on 18 November 1969.

Koka (8°27'N, 39°06'E), 1 on 16-17 December and 2 on 18-21 December 1970; 1 on 3 and 6 March 1973.

Langano (7°35'N, 38°45'E), 1 adult in partial breeding plumage on 24-25 August 1974.

There are six other inland records listed in the collection of data being used in preparing distribution maps for Ethiopia. Three of these are from Eritrea (E. Johnson and K.D. Smith, pers. comm., but no details), one from Lake Basaaka (8°53'N, 39°53'E) in May 1969, one at Lake Langano (A. Vittery, pers. comm.), and one from Lake Tana (Moltoni & Ruscone 1944). In addition, Mann (1971) saw three at sea among the Dahlac Islands on 3 September 1962. We believe that all these are acceptable records.

Dunlins have only been recorded in 14 of the $\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2}$ -degree squares used in the Ethiopian distribution maps (Ash & McConnel 1975) as follows: 7A, 11AD, 12ACD, 26CD, 34B, 35A, 69B, 70BC and 83B.

There are at least five records of 1-2 birds from Somalia, as follows:

Berbera (10°26'N, 45°02'E), 1 male collected, no date (Elliott 1897), a record overlooked by Archer & Godman (1937).

Berbera, 1 male collected 27 November, year not given (Archer & Godman 1937).

Shonde (1°10'N, 42°33'E), one with a few black feathers on belly, 27 February 1980 (authors' pers. obs.). Inland locality.

Gezira lagoon (1°57'N, 45°11'E), one in full breeding plumage, 1 April 1980 (authors' pers. obs.); 1 in winter plumage 10 December 1980 and 2 between 13 December 1980 and 10 January 1981 (Ash pers. obs.).

These records are placed in three of the $\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2}$ -degree squares of the Somalia distribution maps: 11C, 66D and 69A (Ash & Miskell in prep.).

In conclusion, in Ethiopia Dunlins are fairly common on the coast south to Assab, but are rare inland. They are apparently unknown in Djibouti, where

Ash saw none in a detailed survey on 24-27 December 1975. Further south, in Somalia, there are only five records of 1-2 birds, two on the coast in the north and two on the coast and one inland in the south. It appears that the regular wintering area in northeastern Africa does not extend south of a line through Aden and Assab. South of this line the bird occurs irregularly as a vagrant.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank Peter Hay, Brother Edmond Johnson, C.F. Mann, the late K.D. Smith and Alan Vittery for providing information on Dunlins in Ethiopia.

REFERENCES

- ARCHER, G.F. & GODMAN, E.M. 1937. *The birds of British Somaliland and the Gulf of Aden*. Vol. 2. London & Edinburgh: Gurney & Jackson.
- ASH, J.S. & MISKELL, J.E. (in prep.). An atlas of bird distribution in Somalia.
- & McCONNEL, E. 1975. A biological distribution map for Ethiopia. *Ethiopian Medical Journal* 13: 37-39.
- DOWSETT, R.J. 1980. The migration of coastal waders from the Palaearctic across Africa. *Le Gerfaut* 70: 3-35.
- ELLIOTT, D.G. 1897. Catalogue of a collection of birds obtained by the recent expedition into Somali-land, authorised and equipped by the Field Columbian Museum, with descriptions of new species. *Field Columbian Museum, Publication* 17, *Ornithological Series* 1(2): 29-67.
- MANN, C.F. 1971. Migration in the Dahlac Archipelago and the neighbouring mainland of Ethiopia, autumn 1962. *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club* 91: 41-46.
- McLACHLAN, G.R. & LIVERSIDGE, R. 1980. *Roberts birds of South Africa*. Cape Town: Trustees of the John Voelcker Bird Book Fund.
- MOLTONI, E. & RUSCONE, G.G. 1944. *Gli uccelli dell'Africa Orientale Italiana*. Vol. 3. Milano.
- SMITH, K.D. 1957. An annotated check list of the birds of Eritrea. *Ibis* 99: 1-26, 307-337.
- J.S. Ash, *Division of Birds, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560, U.S.A.* and J.E. Miskell, *c/o UNDP, Box 24, Mogadishu, Somalia.*
Received 20 February 1981.
- Scopus* 5: 32-33, March 1981

NOTES FROM THE RWENZORI MOUNTAINS, INCLUDING A DESCRIPTION OF THE NEST AND EGGS OF ARCHER'S GROUND ROBIN *DRYOCICHOLOIDES ARCHERI* During early January 1959, I visited the Rwenzoris in western Uganda as one of a party from Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). Recollections are a little hazy, but my few observations and specimens include some items of interest. All species noted above about 4000 m are mentioned, even if no proper identification was made. Most were in the vicinity of Bujuku Lake and Kitandara, but we reached the Stanley glacier and the summit of Mount Speke.

Buteo tachardus Mountain Buzzard

A pair of dull brown buzzards with a nest on the southern side of the eastern approaches to the Stuhlmann Pass, about two-thirds of the way up from the Bujuku huts, was evidently this species. In East Africa as a whole, Britton (1980) records it as high as 3800 m.